



ISRAEL CONCERNED OVER NIXON'S OFFER OF NUCLEAR AID TO EGYPT

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA)-- Israel is greatly concerned about President Nixon's offer of nuclear assistance to Egypt, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview today on the ABC-TV program "Issues and Answers." "Since we live in the Middle East, in an area of tension," Rabin said, "you can never know what will be the purposes which certain countries will use once they get the technology of how to handle nuclear energy."

The Israeli Premier predicted the American offer would result in accelerating the move by other countries into the use of nuclear technology. But when asked if Israel possessed the atomic bomb, he said that Israel was not a nuclear country "in military terms." Rabin would not answer whether Israel could produce an atomic weapon on short notice. "I don't believe that I am in a position to give you an answer because it should require a lot of exploration," he said.

Rabin said that the U.S. should not forget in improving its relations with the Arab countries that this was made possible because of U.S. support for Israel. "As long as the United States will continue to support Israel," he said, "there is hope that the Arab countries will also turn toward the United States." The question of peace in the Middle East was up to the Arabs, Rabin declared. He explained that as long as the Arabs were willing to pursue a political settlement there would be no war.

DAYAN SAYS HE ACTED ON CABINET ORDERS IN THE TRAGIC MAALOT EVENT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- The Cabinet ordered Moshe Dayan to negotiate with the Maalot terrorists for the simultaneous rather than separate exchange of prisoners and hostages, the former Defense Minister told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. He said he therefore assumed that the Cabinet had decided to reject the terrorist stipulation that the 20 terrorists asked to be released be flown to Damascus before they released the 80 school students.

Dayan was thus rejecting the claim that lack of communication and misunderstanding between Maalot and Jerusalem was one of the main causes for the ultimate tragedy.

Minister-Without-Portfolio Yisrael Galili explained that in his assessment the Cabinet would not have agreed to flying out the 20 prisoners without securing the simultaneous release of the hostage youth. But there had been no express Cabinet decision rejecting this stipulation -- because the Cabinet had not discussed this issue in isolation -- but always in the context of its later-proven mistaken fear that the terrorists would insist on taking some or all of the students with them when they were released.

Dayan's Wording Confirmed

Dayan revealed that he had sought and obtained Galili's approval of the operative part of his Knesset speech Wednesday before delivery -- and Galili confirmed that he had consulted other ministers over Dayan's wording and they had confirmed its accuracy.

Dayan said in the House: "The Cabinet did not decide to accept the terrorist conditions (as

Likud Knesseters Haim Landau had claimed.) The Cabinet decided to exchange the children for 20 imprisoned terrorists plus the three Maalot terrorists, to allow them to leave. But it did not decide to accept the terrorist condition, as formulated orally, as formulated in writing, as presented through the Rumanian Ambassador and as formulated in the famous letter."

"In simple Hebrew, what the terrorists wanted...was: First send the prisoners to Damascus. When we receive word that they have arrived there, we will then free the children...and the Cabinet did not accept this condition." Dayan also told the Knesset that this was "the key" to the events of the day. He thus implied that the Horev inquiry commission had overlooked or ignored this key factor, and that its criticism of the Cabinet's handling of the emergency was casuistic rather than realistic in view of this.

YARIV'S STATEMENT ON PALESTINIANS RAISES EYEBROWS AND CRITICISM

Minister Stresses His Statement Does

Not Contradict Government Policy

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- The statement by Information Minister Aharon Yariv holding out the possibility of negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has raised eyebrows in government circles -- and caused a good deal of criticism from the opposition. Foreign diplomats here are also reported to have expressed much interest at this apparently new line -- although a policy speech by Premier Yitzhak Rabin yesterday sought to reaffirm Israel's continued refusal to negotiate with terrorists and thus to correct any wrong impression that Yariv may have given in his statement Friday.

Yariv said, in an interview with the army radio, that any negotiations on the fate of Judea and Samaria should be held with Jordan. On the other hand, all Arab countries are agreed that the Palestinians are represented only by the PLO headed by Yasir Arafat, the same PLO which wrote into its 1968 "Palestine Covenant" that the democratic Palestinian republic would arise from the ruins of the State of Israel. This platform was reconfirmed by the Cairo Conference a few weeks ago.

"How can we negotiate with representatives of murderers who kill for the sake of killing -- and how shall we negotiate with the Palestinians at large if these are their sole representatives," Yariv said. "Should the PLO announce that its covenant was no longer valid, and declare its readiness to enter negotiations while acknowledging the existence of a Jewish state here in Israel, and should this organization announce the cessation of all hostile actions against Israel and indeed terminate them -- then it would be possible to start negotiating."

Far From Revolutionary

Thus, as the more balanced commentators have pointed out, Yariv's statement was far from revolutionary. It certainly did not envisage talks with the PLO so long as that group

remains what it is today. In fact at today's Cabinet meeting Yariv stressed that there was nothing in his statement that would contradict government policy as stated by Rabin in his Knesset speech at the time the Cabinet was being presented. Rabin said Israel could not negotiate with terrorist groups which was understood by some to mean Israel would not reject a Palestinian group that was not terrorist.

Yariv was asked about his statement by Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, considered a staunch hawk. Yariv said some press reports had taken his statement out of context and he read aloud the statement he made over radio.

(In Beirut, the leadership of the PLO was reported skeptical over Yariv's statement although there was considerable interest and discussion among the rank-and-file. Meanwhile Arafat is scheduled to lead a PLO delegation to Moscow this week at the invitation of Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev. The Soviet Union is expected to recognize the PLO during the visit as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.)

No Discussion Of Palestinian Entity

Rabin, in an address to a Labor Party leadership rally yesterday, said the government had no intention of discussing "a Palestinian entity" as the newspaper Haaretz had claimed. "In order to progress towards peace and a solution to the Palestinian problem, I am convinced that almost the only partner with which a solution is possible is the Jordanian regime...." Rabin said.

"Any such Israeli decision (to negotiate with the Palestinians) would inevitably entail granting a representative status to Israel's worst enemies -- to those who refuse to recognize Israel's existence, those who declare that their objective is Israel's liquidation."

While Rabin rejected the theory that the Palestinian issue was the key to Mideast progress -- that key, he said, was in Egypt's hands -- the Premier nevertheless recognized frankly that the problem existed, that the Palestinians existed, and that they would have to be taken into account in any solution. This itself represented a notable change of tone in comparison with former Premier Golda Meir's uncompromisingly negative stand on this issue.

Allon, Kissinger To Meet July 29

Rabin is due to lead the Cabinet in a far-ranging review of Israel's position on the Palestinian issue -- and particularly on their possible representation in the Geneva conference -- in advance of Foreign Minister Yigal Allon's visit to Washington later this month. Allon will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger July 29, officials said here today. He is expected to bring to Washington an authoritative new formulation of Israeli policy on the West Bank and on the next stage of the peace conference.

At their meeting at the week's end, Kissinger is understood to have told Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz that there was no U.S. intention to support the idea of a Palestinian state, and that the U.S. would support Israel if Israel decided to press for another

round of talks with Egypt before tackling the West Bank-Palestinian issue.

The U.S. however, has repeatedly warned Israel in recent weeks that time and terrorism are working to the PLO's favor. The longer the West Bank-Palestinian issue is held in abeyance, President Nixon told Rabin during his visit here, the more firmly the PLO becomes ensconced, in Arab and world opinion, as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

(In Washington, Thursday, a high level State Department official told newsmen that high level contacts between the U.S. and Palestinian organizations may develop in the coming months. But the official stressed that up to now there have been no such contacts.)

PLIGHT OF JEWS IN EAST EUROPE

By Tova Kamins

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- "Major cities are without rabbis and there has been no training of religious leaders for a number of years." This was one of the observations of Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue and of Rev. Thurston N. Davis S.J. of the United States Catholic Conference in a press conference here today to further emphasize the situation facing Soviet Jews. The press conference came as a result of their recent trip to the Soviet Union and Poland.

The two clergymen who have been to Eastern Europe previously were distressed that all the emphasis has been on the emigration of the Soviet Jews rather than on the continuation of a Jewish spiritual, religious and cultural life in Russia.

Rabbi Schneier said that "even if the rate of emigration is accelerated, we must reckon that the majority of the three million Soviet Jews will remain in the country and should have the right to perpetuate their religious and cultural heritage." Both Rabbi Schneier and Father Davis expressed hope that the American Jewish community will consider this factor as well as that of emigration.

In addition, they also made observations regarding the overt state of disrepair and neglect of Jewish cemeteries and synagogues in the USSR and Poland. The centuries-old cemetery of Odessa is in danger of liquidation by authorities under a law which states that any cemetery which has not had a burial for 25 years can be liquidated. The Nozik synagogue, the only remaining one in all of Warsaw is a shambles. Windows are shattered and the area is surrounded by mud and dirt. There is great difficulty in getting a minyan during the week and sometimes on Saturday.

Rabbi Schneier and Father Davis succeeded in securing a promise from the Polish Director of Religious Affairs, Kazimierz Kakol, that within six months, the Nozik synagogue would be fixed up and designated an historical landmark. They also obtained a guarantee that 110 Soviet Jews would be allowed to go to Budapest to study in East Europe's only remaining Rabbincal Seminary. The Soviet government refuses to allow rabbis from other countries to come to Russia, but they made the concession of allowing a few Russian Jews to study outside, the clergymen said.

AMSTERDAM, (JTA) -- Golda Meir is one of the most popular women in The Netherlands, according to a recent poll here asking "who is your favorite contemporary woman?" Following Dutch Queen Juliana and the Royal Princesses, Mrs. Meir was the most frequent choice of Dutchmen.

GROWING CONCERN IN CONGRESS OVER NUCLEAR MATERIALS GOING TO MIDEAST

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- Concern in Congress over the adequacy of safeguards on the nuclear technology and materials the Administration has decided to export to the Middle East manifested itself again Friday when the Senate International Finance Subcommittee opened hearings on the Administration's agreements to supply reactors to Egypt and Israel.

Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson (D., Ill.), the subcommittee chairman, pointed out in an opening statement that the question of adequate controls must be examined because "we face the possibility of nuclear holocaust, international blackmail and the poisoning of the atmosphere."

"These are not alarmist views of exaggerated concerns," he said. "They are possibilities which we ignore at our peril." The question, he said, is now the U.S. can pursue the use of nuclear energy essential to man's welfare without risking its use for destruction of life and civilized institutions.

Morally, Militarily Ominous

Sen. William Proxmire (D., Wisc.), appearing as a witness, testified that the combination of the nuclear test by India and the U.S. offers to Egypt and Israel is "morally and militarily ominous." Criticizing the Administration's position on the agreements, as have members in both houses, Proxmire said that the safeguard standards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "may be totally inadequate."

He declared that "Whenever we attempt to get specifics" from the Administration, "we are told these are matters for negotiation, with the implication that Congress should leave such matters to the Executive." Proxmire also stressed that 98 nuclear companies, 20 of them American, were unable to obtain contracts on nuclear fuel from the U.S. before the June 30 deadline but Egypt and Israel obtained provisional contracts.

"At a time when we are seeking energy independence, American firms are left hat in hand while Egypt and Israel were promised fuel for reactors not yet approved by Congress," Proxmire said.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D., Wash.), also criticized the Administration, charged IAEA's safeguards are inadequate and that it lacks the resources to prevent use of the nuclear materials being exported for destructive devices. Agreements must include inspections to make them "rascal proof", he said.

Slight Move Toward Accommodation

Smarting from criticism at the House hearings, Administration witnesses appeared to move slightly towards accommodating Congressional concerns. John Erlwine, General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, said "I believe" Egypt would accept an agreement that production of fuel for its reactor would be outside of Egypt. Sidney Sober, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Middle East testified, "We intend to seek to buttress the IAEA safeguards with certain special bilateral provisions," including processing of nuclear fuel outside of Israel and Egypt.

Erlwine also said that 111 American type reactors that are in operation or formally programmed for construction abroad represent a capital investment of \$33 billion.

As in the House hearings thus far, the expressions of concern continue to be directed towards

the agreement with Egypt. Israel apparently is not considered a possible danger spot either in the conversion of its fuel or to be vulnerable towards theft of materials by Arab terrorists.

HILLEL WARNS AGAINST POLICE BUDGET CUTS

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Police Minister Shlomo Hillel has warned the Knesset that any cuts in the police budget in line with the new economic policy may hamper police task of protecting citizens from criminals and terrorists. He said the damage which would ensue, at a time when domestic crime as well as assaults across the borders were expected to increase, could not be compared with the problems that budget cuts might cause in other ministries.

Hillel indicated that the building of houses and roads can be postponed, but not protecting citizens. He said that since the beginning of the year crime has increased steadily and in a noticeable degree. "We are passing through a characteristic and difficult post-war phase now," he said. "Potential offenders have amassed considerable quantities of firearms as a result of the war and we can expect violent crime to increase."

Hillel, making his annual survey of the Ministry's operations, said the Ministry would spend some Il four million on a new crack border police unit designed for emergency operations.

LIFE SENTENCE TO KILLERS

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Three men, who murdered two prominent Gaza Strip community leaders in an effort to prevent an attempt by Israeli authorities to form a roof municipality for Gaza and its surrounding refugees camps, were sentenced today to life imprisonment by a military tribunal in Gaza. The court expressed regret it was unable to impose the death penalty on the three as their crimes warranted such a punishment.

The three -- Mouhammed Salah el-Rukyou, a 24-year-old teacher, Khaled Aabed Attar, a 22-year-old teacher, and Farouk Mouhammed Abu Hassan, a 24-year-old law student -- early last year murdered the chairman of the El Shatti Refugee Camp Committee and later a priest, Father Johanna Nimri, a noted moderate community leader in Gaza. They also carried out other hostile activities.

All three confessed to the murders after reports, in their own handwriting, were presented to the court. In these reports, captured at the command post of Gaza Strip terrorists, the three described their actions in details.

BUDAPEST, (JTA) -- The Budapest Jewish community recently held a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the famed Jewish scholar, Rabbi Armin Keeskemeti. A representative of the Hungarian Ministry of Religious Affairs attended the ceremony. Keeskemeti was the only rabbi who, in the first half of the century, was granted the post of university professor of history.

SOFIA, (JTA) -- The government recently awarded Col. Mayer Albuhair Salomon "The Order of September 9, 1944," for his service in the Bulgarian army and his contribution to the fight against Nazism.

